

S  
333.783 Montana. Dept. of  
F2mcid Fish, Wildlife,  
1999 and Parks  
Makoshika  
capital  
improvements



Revised 1/21/99

DRAFT

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
1515 E. 6th AVE.  
HELENA, MONTANA 59600

1. Type of Proposed State Action Park Capital Improvements

Makoshika State Park improvements will include roadway culvert replacement, paving of up to .5 miles of road, and grading the slope and adding gravel to the Radio Tower Junction Saddle. Power line burial in Cains Coulee and in the road between the Radio Towers and the Amphitheater. Amphitheater renovations include additional overflow parking, reconstruction of trails and replacement of latrines to meet accessibility standards, replacement of Amphitheater seats and electrification of the site. Replacement latrines will also be installed, at the Group Use Picnic Area and Pine on Rocks to bring these sites up to ADA accessibility standards. Capital improvements also include the construction of two five mile trails which will link recreation sites and provide foot access to some of the primitive badlands areas within the park.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks has the authority to provide development for public recreation on Department lands (23-1-102 MCA).

3. Name of Project Makoshika Capital Improvements

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 East 6th Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Friends of Makoshika  
PO Box 1242  
Glendive, MT 59330-1242

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date April 1999  
Estimated Completion Date December 2002



Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 75%

**6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

Sections 1,12,13,14,23 in Range 55 East, Township 15 North and Sections 5,7,8,16,18,19,20,21,28,29 in Range 56 East, Township 15 North in Dawson County.

**7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

**(a) Developed:**

residential. . . . . 0 acres

industrial. . . . . 0.2 acres

Replacement of an existing retaining wall at the Visitor Center will impact two tenths of an acre at the Visitor Center.

**(b) Open:**

Space/Woodlands/

Recreation. . . . . 14.2 acres

Renovation of the Amphitheater will impact 8 acres of surface; trail construction resulting in direct impact of 6.2 acres of surface, based on ten miles of 60" wide disturbance during construction of the trails.

**© Wetlands/Riparian**

Areas. . . . . 0 acres

**(d) Floodplain. . . . . 0.5 acre**

The road in Cains Coulee follows a primary drainage in the park with culvert replacement impacting slightly less than one half acre of the floodplain.

**(e) Productive:**

irrigated cropland. . . . 0 acres

dry cropland. . . . . 0 acres

forestry. . . . . 0 acres

rangeland. . . . . 0 acres

other. . . . . 0 acres





8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 ½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

See maps in Appendix

Vicinity Map

Road Map

Amphitheater Map/Site plan

Trail Map

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The proposed capital improvements are intended to upgrade the facilities, roadways and aesthetics of the park as well as providing easier access for park visitors to park lands, facilities and resources. As Montana's largest State Park, Makoshika plays a significant role in providing recreational opportunities and fulfilling the mission of Montana State Parks in eastern Montana. Makoshika's untapped recreational opportunities and increasing visitation have the potential to provide a stable long term economic boost to the town of Glendive and other communities in eastern Montana. Major capital (outside of the visitor center construction) and infrastructure improvements are needed to achieve the goals of providing recreation and economic stability while protecting the park resources for future generations to enjoy. The following work projects must be completed to elevate Makoshika to higher standards. Area residents and transient park users alike have stated increased access and interpretation of the Makoshika story are paramount.

Specifically, replacing the current undersized metal drainage culverts with larger concrete culverts and associated wing and erosion walls will eliminate culvert and road washouts vastly improving visitor safety and allowing for stability of the road bed and paving. The current gravel road section from the campground to the switchbacks produces continual dust, erosion and rough road problems and discourages many park patrons from venturing further into the park. Paving this section will connect two previously paved sections thus completing the paving of the road in the lower section of the park. This section of road in Cains Coulee follows the bottom of the drainage and is impacted by all the run off and surface flows in the entire drainage, a condition that requires additional maintenance effort and expense in order to maintain a reasonably smooth and safe gravel surface.

As the culverts are installed and before the road is paved the power and telephone lines will be relocated from above ground to underground along the road. This will remove the visual intrusion of the power lines from the scenic pullouts, roadway, and vista/overlooks, thus restoring a more natural aesthetic continuity to Cains





Coulee. Electric lines to the Amphitheater will be installed underground in the road bed or along the shoulder of the existing road to prevent infringing on the viewshed.

Road improvements will also address problems at the Radio Hill Junction saddle. This road provides the sole access to the south half of the park, Lions Camp and Bowmens Archery Range. This section of road is the beginning of the primitive roadway that after vehicle traffic or periods of rain becomes impassable or extremely rough, restricting safe access under these conditions. Emergency access and public safety hazards created by the steep grades and uneven rocky substrate of the saddle will be corrected by this project. The grade will be lessened and reworked on the north side and gravel will be added to the road surface. Over time, with cooperation between the Glendive Noon Lions and Makoshika Bowmen Archery Club and FWP, the road leading to the Lions/Bowman junction will be graveled.

Amphitheater improvements will include realigning, expanding and delineating the seating area and adding two precast handicap accessible vault latrines. Access to the theater will be upgraded to meet ADA standards. The proposed Amphitheater improvements will provide for a more user friendly facility and enhance tourism to Makoshika State Park and Glendive. Parking expansion at the Amphitheater will eliminate the current parking problem for programs and protect park resources from the risk of wildfires started by cars parking beside the road as well as providing disabled access. The extension of an accessible trail to the cap rock formations 200 yards beyond the Amphitheater will create the only handicap accessible pathway in Makoshika and Dawson County.

Trail construction will involve development of hiking trails connecting recreation sites and provide access to park lands, scenic vistas and geologic sites. Park visitors have expressed a desire to explore the badlands and view dinosaur remains in a natural setting, a trail system will offer this opportunity. Trail guides and interpretive brochures will describe the natural processes that created the badlands, provide information on back country etiquette as well as educate the public about the importance of preserving the paleontologic resources in the park. In 1995, an intern tentatively laid out two additional long trail systems (approximately 5 miles each) which will be developed over the years as funding and manpower allow. Makoshika State Park, at almost 9000 acres, is Montana's largest state park and currently has only 3.5 miles of developed trail. Development of additional trails will allow for expanded access, recreational and educational opportunities for visitors.

Replacement handicap accessible vault latrines will be installed at the Amphitheater, Group Use and Pine on Rocks picnic/camping area providing non-discriminating facilities at these locations.



**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Dept. Env. Quality	Storm Water Runoff	At Construction
Corp. of Engineers	404	At Construction

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
N/A	

© Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Dawson County	Owner of leased land
BLM	Owner of adjoining lands
County Sanitarian	Public health codes

**11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

Montana Department of Transportation, County Building Official, Travel Montana,  
State Historical Preservation Office



PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
<sup>b</sup> a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			X		Yes	1
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	2
<sup>b</sup> c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?			X		Yes	3
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		Yes	4
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?			X		Yes	5
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Work will require movement, replacement and removal of soils. The design and construction methods employed will reduce the chance of long term impacts and upon completion of the projects native seeding and landscaping will reduce or eliminate the impacts. Much of the work (culverts, paving and graveling) will upgrade existing roadways where impacts are already present. Makoshika State Park soils are naturally very unstable and project design will address this and impacts to the site's topsoil will be minimized confining all vehicles and equipment to work zones with mandatory reclamation of all disturbed soils or vegetation. Follow up monitoring and rectification procedures will preserve or improve site aesthetics. This project is primarily "major maintenance" of existing roads and facilities where man caused disturbance will be reduced by the project. The road improvements will result in decreased sedimentation from surface run off and stabilization of ditches and embankments resulting in a net decrease in human impacts on the land resources.
2. Again, soil will be disrupted, displaced and compacted during construction but after construction landscaping and seeding will advance the healing and stabilize the affected areas. Erosion and compaction will be continual issues in regard to trail development but an inspection and maintenance program will monitor and repair erosion areas. Compaction and concentrated water runoff of roadbed areas, trails and developed areas is inevitable, however, site design and layouts will mitigate soil compaction and alteration of drainage patterns will be avoided. Runoff will be channeled into the natural drainages and on-site permanent erosion control measures will be used to control sedimentation and reduce storm runoff water velocities. Over-covering of soil and associated moisture loss will occur under paved and graveled areas as well as under any structures. These impacts are inevitable and are a pre-existing condition of all present roads and recreation facilities. The project work at the Amphitheater will reduce erosion and topsoil loss by hardening high traffic areas and will be limited to past road areas and needed visitor service sites.

Minimum impact trail construction methods, as developed in the Little Missouri National Grasslands, include several techniques to minimize the disturbance of foot trails. Alternatives considered include route selection, use of native/natural materials and "no-trace" construction. Route selection is used to avoid steep slopes and sensitive areas. Native stone and natural materials are used to help the trail blend with the environment while hardening the tread for anticipated use.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

<sup>b</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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Makoshika Trail Crews have used a "no-trace" trail construction which includes mowing a pathway instead of digging in a trail and using trail markers to highlight a trail route without any other digging or disturbance to the soil or vegetation, thus leaving all native soils and vegetation undisturbed and in pristine condition. No-trace construction results in a no net loss of vegetative cover while providing a marked trail for hiking. Traditional trail construction methods could result in a maximum disturbance of up to 73.3 cubic yards of topsoil and 1760 square yards of vegetation per mile of trail. The disturbance or loss of topsoil/vegetation is reduced to an average of 10 cubic yards per mile when "no-trace" construction methods are used. (Note this type of no-trace trail marking and construction is not practical in forested areas or for high use trails.)

3. The only portions of the capital improvements to Makoshika which could affect any geologic or physical feature would be trail development. The purpose of the park trail system is access unique scenic, geologic and paleontologic areas, however trail layout, construction and maintenance will be undertaken with park protection and aesthetics as paramount concerns to the preservation of these resources. If low impact and no-trace trail construction methods are carefully employed, development of the back country trail system at Makoshika will have limited visual or physical impacts to unique scenic, geologic or historic features of the park. In other words, with careful route selection and proper construction techniques, trails will result in imperceptible changes to the scenic viewshed in Makoshika. Trail maintenance and monitoring of use is also paramount to protection of park resources from deterioration.
4. The park access road and culverts have affected water flows in the coulees causing sections of roadway and culverts to be washed away at times. The improvements to the culverts should allow for free flows bringing the conditions closer to the natural run off regime, before the roads were developed.
5. Increased public access to the badlands resource may increase the chances of a person being in an area when slumping (soil movement created by gravity, moisture and the unconsolidated nature of badlands soils) occurs. Trail development will have health hazards, soil stability, aspect and slope conditions considered to maximize visitor safety. Public access is also restricted naturally by the slippery nature of the soil when wet, which is generally when slumping occurs. Trail development will not route users near dangerous drop-offs without proper signing and fencing. All other projects are on level land.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				1
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	2
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. <sup>b</sup> For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. There will be no emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality other than that caused by increased vehicle use in the park which the capacity of the park to withstand is excellent due to its size.

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<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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Pollutants will also increase during the construction period due to the use of heavy equipment, however this will be short term (less than 45 days).

2. Latrine toilets may cause objectionable odors depending on circumstances such as temperature, wind, humidity, use patterns, pumping and cleaning schedule and deodorant/microbial additives used. Park staff monitors these items and works to control odors. These latrines replace non-accessible units and the newer latrines have improved ventilation characteristics thereby improving the current situation

p Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

p Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

p Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

pp Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
p a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				1
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		Yes	2
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?			X		Yes	3
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?			X		Yes	4
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. <sup>pp</sup> For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)			X		Yes	5
m. <sup>p</sup> For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. There will be no alteration or impacts to the surface water resource.
2. The culvert installation will help restore natural flows because of their less restrictive larger size. Paving of the roadway and construction of an additional gravel parking lot at the Amphitheater will increase runoff onto adjacent soils. Site design, erosion control during construction will limit topsoil loss, while reclamation of native vegetation and permanent erosion control measures after construction will stabilize soils. Reworking the slope at the Radio Hill Junction saddle will lessen the velocity of water flow and a properly designed and constructed road with sufficient gravel and borrow pits will help stabilize road edges and improve public safety. Monitoring of erosion control and revegetation efforts after construction will allow for quick and appropriate corrective action as needed. The latrine buildings will intercept water fall, directing it toward specific areas and landscaping and/or gutters and downspouts will lessen impacts. Trail routes will follow the natural contours of the land limiting impacts to drainage patterns. Bridges will be used to cross drainage courses where appropriate, culvert crossings are not commonly used for trail construction. Trail layout will concentrate on reduced intrusion and avoidance of unstable

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of steep slopes by following game trails and the natural routes of least resistance to limit impacts. Inspection and maintenance (monitoring) may include wear/erosion bars bridge replacement and rerouting of the trail if necessary.

3. Larger culverts will allow more water to flow returning coulees to a more natural state and protecting the road above.
4. Culvert enlargement and installation will drain areas where previous road construction damned natural drainages causing water to collect.
5. Again, culvert replacement will restore a more natural flow to coulees and drainages.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>p</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		No	1
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		No	2
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X			No	3
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4
f. <sup>pp</sup> For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X			No	
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Development of park facilities, infrastructure and trails will lessen plant productivity and abundance in the immediate areas under and surrounding the development during construction. Plant diversity will not be affected. Landscaping and revegetation efforts will increase plant diversity and abundance to pre-construction levels around the Amphitheater by disturbing the decedent sage brush stands along the roadway. Native grasses and wildflower seeds laying dormant in the soil will be supplemented by revegetation as part of this project.
2. Landscaping and revegetation around all developments will use native vegetation with plantings complimenting surrounding plant communities. The trail system and parking expansion at the Amphitheater will affect area vegetation in the parking lot and on the tread of the trails, facilities will be installed with the least possible disturbance to trees and vegetation. Vegetative screening near the parking areas at the Amphitheater will include ponderosa pine, rocky mountain juniper, yucca, big sage and silver sage. Native grass seed mix used for erosion control will include little blue stem, red three awn, blue gramma grass, and rough fescue along with a cover crop of oats or other non-regenerating cereal grain.
3. Rare, threatened or endangered plants are not documented to historically exist within the project area. One state sensitive plant, *Nuttallanthus texaus*, formerly classified as *Linaria canadensis*, has been documented in 1982 outside the project area by Scow, Culwell and Larson 1982). Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*, was located in 1975 within two miles of the northern boundary of Makoshika. Mentzelia, *Mentzelia nuda*, was located in 1975 within two miles of the northern boundary of the park in 1982.

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<sup>p</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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4. As construction commences soils will be opened allowing introduction of unwanted weed species. Again, landscaping, revegetation and weed control efforts will eliminate the establishment or spread of noxious weeds. FWP has also increased its efforts to control noxious weeds and these additional controls will apply to construction/development areas. Trail development into previously inaccessible areas will increase the likelihood of noxious weed dispersal, however the ability of park staff to monitor and control weed infestations will be enhanced by the improved access provided by the trail system.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

p 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X		Yes	1
h. <sup>bb</sup> For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				2
i. <sup>b</sup> For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Short term impacts may occur to area wildlife during construction but will cease upon completion. Trail development will allow and encourage access to remote park areas increasing the chance for human and wildlife interactions. Wildlife species stress may occur, however interpretive efforts will attempt to instill in visitors an appreciation for wildlife and ethical behavior while on trails. Walk-in hunting access is not expected to increase, and the associated impacts on mule deer populations should be insignificant.
- A record Search with the Montana Natural Heritage Program shows the Prebel's Shrew, *Sorex prebelie* adjacent to the north boundary of the park.

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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			1
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. The short term effects of noise disturbances from this project will be minimal because road construction will take place during the shoulder seasons, not during peak visitor use periods. To further mitigate construction/noise impacts to recreational use construction will be limited to a 45 day period with all activities during daylight hours. Limits of work for the projects are located 1/4 mile or more from the nearest camping facility, noise from heavy equipment operation will be buffered by vegetation and topographic relief of the land and restricted hours of operation. Closure of roads, for safety reasons, during culvert replacement will further limit the exposure of park visitors to the impacts of construction equipment noise.

A long term, more than three months, increase in noise created by the expanded activities at the Amphitheater is anticipated as a result of improved facilities and increased public use. The Amphitheater is located ½ mile from the nearest camping facility. This isolation along with the timing and short duration of programs at the Amphitheater will result in minor noise related disturbances to campers and park visitors. The average program or activity at the Amphitheater will be two hours or less in duration with few activities later than 10:00 PM anticipated.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		Yes	1
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?			X			2
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?			X		Yes	3
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Trail development, as part of the R&PP process, must address grazing leases on adjoining BLM lands. Proper signing and gates or cattle guards may allow trail use and grazing compatibility.
2. Development of the trail system may result in the discovery of significant paleontologic resources in Makoshika State Park. The primary mechanism for protecting paleontologic and archaeologic resources is avoidance. Upon discovery of any fossil or archaeologic material a trained representative for FWP will assess the significance of the find and plot the location using GPS technology. Planning and route selection for the trails system will involve an interdisciplinary team to evaluate the least intrusive trail route taking into consideration protection of scenic, geologic, paleontologic, archaeologic, plant, and animal resources, as well as public safety. The primary means of protecting park resources is to avoid any sensitive site or area by rerouting the trail or development away from the site. Significant discoveries during or after construction will receive preservation and site protection measures which may include stabilization, on-site preservation/ interpretation, excavation or closure of the trail to protect the site. If avoidance of the site is not possible, preservation and development of on-site interpretation to enhance public education and appreciation will be preferred over closure of the trail.
3. Current land use of BLM property is grazing. Long term plans call for developing trails on and eventually state acquisition of BLM sections for inclusion into Makoshika State Park. Negotiations between BLM, State and lessees will be necessary to determine grazing compatibility or mitigating measures if disallowed.

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<sup>bb</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		Yes	1
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		Yes	2
d. <sup>b</sup> For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X		Yes	3
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Accidental spills or discharge of hazardous materials or toxic substances from construction equipment or park operations would be mitigated by immediate and emergency site clean up and reclamation. The spill or discharge would be physically contained and the affected site would be reclaimed through either on-site remedation, including bioremediation, or removal of contaminated soil with disposal in an approved location. The affected area would be reclaimed through the placement of new clean topsoil, recontoured and seeded with the appropriate native species.
2. Trail development will increase access and risk of injury while exploring park resources. Proper trail development will eliminate most associated risks by avoiding steep drop offs and unstable slopes. There will remain an inherent risk involved with activities in remote locations in the park. The trail system will provide better access and evacuation routes for emergency/rescue personnel. Road upgrades will improve safety for people and vehicles traveling to park facilities and private inholdings such as the Lions Youth Camp.
2. Paving the road with asphalt will introduce petroleum into the area and herbicides may be used before and after construction. Proper construction techniques will retain petroleum products to the intended uses of road bed stabilization and pavement surfaces. Pesticide application rates and methods will minimize risk to people and the environment during construction and maintenance operations. The use of herbicides for weed control will be applied under the supervision of a licensed weed control operator and performed in accordance with standard safety precautions and manufacturers labeling instructions. (See narrative 1 above for accidental spills.)

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

<sup>b</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

<sup>bb</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X		Yes	1
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		Yes	2
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The projects are anticipated to result in an increase of tourism dollars for Glendive businesses and FWP. Improvement of park roads and facilities will increase the number of visitors who come to Makoshika State Park. Opening of the Visitor Center in 1994 increased visitation five fold within three years. Road improvements and park trails provide for more comfortable and enjoyable visitor access to the scenic vistas and park facilities. This is anticipated to increase both the number of visitors to the park and extend the average length of stay in the park and community of Glendive. If visitation increases by 10% annually the economic impact to Glendive is estimated to be an additional \$210,000.00 per year.

The Amphitheater Renovation will similarly increase the number of visitors to the park and may increase the number of overnight stays in the park and area hotels and motels. A 10% annual increase in overnight visits to the Glendive area may result in an additional \$94,000 annually in tourism dollars to Glendive area businesses.

- During construction access to park and facilities will be impaired or impossible. To mitigate this construction will be completed during shoulder seasons to minimize impact to park visitors. The road will be open for public use on Saturday and Sunday throughout construction to lessen the impact to early and late season park visitors or use of inholding facilities. Once completed road improvements will increase safety and ease of travel into Makoshika State Park. Traffic patterns associated with the beginning and ending of programs at the Amphitheater may cause momentary congestion on park roads. Proposed park road improvements should mitigate the intermittent traffic congestion.

- <sup>b</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- <sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- <sup>b</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- <sup>bb</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.







HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: <u>park and recreation facilities</u>			X		Yes	1
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X		No	2
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X		Yes	3
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?			X		Yes	4
<sup>b</sup> e. Define projected revenue sources						5
<sup>b</sup> f. Define projected maintenance costs.						6
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. The project will impact the operation and maintenance at Makoshika State Park. The areas most affected include road maintenance, facility maintenance and operation at the Amphitheater, and trail maintenance. The road reconstruction and paving will shift maintenance costs from monthly grading and graveling to periodic major maintenance at five to seven year intervals. Major maintenance would cover pavement treatments such as crack repair, striping, and chip sealing. The primary benefit to the public is a safe smooth road surface which enhances visitor enjoyment of the park. Peripheral benefits include reduced dust and vehicle noise.
- Facility maintenance at the Amphitheater is dependent on the use level. Repair and maintenance costs, including vandalism repair is anticipated to remain under \$1,000 annually for the first 5 years of operation, and not to exceed \$1,500 annual maintenance and repair when the facility reaches full utilization capacity.
- Long term trail maintenance expenditures will increase with each mile of trail constructed. Cost of construction and maintenance of back country trails will be proportionally less expensive compared to high standard trails like the Cap Rock Nature Trail which includes multiple stair cases and numerous interpretive signs. Low impact and no-trace trail construction is faster and less expensive to install and maintain. The Friends of Makoshika have a proven commitment to the park trail system, including maintenance of the trails to be developed as part of this project.
2. The Amphitheater Renovation may increase State Bed Tax revenues if an anticipated rise in overnight camping and lodging is realized in Glendive and surrounding Montana communities. The amount and associated impact of the additional bed tax revenue is, in part, dependent on marketing and promotion of the Amphitheater by the Friends of Makoshika, FWP, and Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.
3. Above ground power lines will be relocated and buried along the park roadway eliminating them from view. Electrical lines will be buried to the Amphitheater.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

<sup>b</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

<sup>bb</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



4. The Amphitheater renovation includes installation of underground electric power lines to the site and installation of on site electric lights and outlets. These modifications are mandatory to the success of marketing this facility and essential for full utilization of the facility for educational programs, evening slide shows and dinner theaters. The installation of underground power lines could be mitigated by the use of solar panels and storage batteries. The long term maintenance and operation costs of a solar/battery system is comparable in cost however the capability and reliability of this type of system is unknown.
- 5&6. Revenue and maintenance funds are park user fees, accommodations tax, coal and fuel tax, general fund and LAWCON. Road maintenance costs will decrease due to more pavement, additional gravel and reduced slope requiring less maintenance and grading. Culvert replacement will reduce the chance of road washouts and associated repair costs. Park use fees for use of the Amphitheater will be used for maintenance and operation of the facility. The Amphitheater improvements will increase maintenance and utility expenses. Since the Amphitheater site is not currently electrified additional utility billing will cost an estimated \$145.44 annually. Group use fees, charged for rental of the Amphitheater facility, will offset the additional cost of utilities and maintenance. Latrine installations will replace old existing facilities reducing maintenance costs while bringing these facilities into compliance with ADA of 1990. Trail construction will require additional resources to maintain estimated to be less than \$2000/ year (also see #1 above).

- b Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- b Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- b Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- bb Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

p 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		Yes	1
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
pc. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		Yes	2
d. pFor P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. The accessible trail to the cap rock formations below the Amphitheater will alter the view of these formations. Current regular use of the site has created a trail to the formations, however this trail is not accessible to all people and is causing the loss of topsoil and vegetation which is currently degrading the site. The proposed accessible trail will be constructed in an environmentally and aesthetically sensitive manner. Construction of the pathway near the cap rocks will be completed using hand tools and portable equipment which will be limited to the tread of the trail. Surfacing materials are non toxic and contain no petroleum products, color of the finished surface will blend with the natural color of the native soils so as not to impair the aesthetics of the vista. The construction of this accessible pathway is in part necessitated to rehabilitate the site from past uses, furthermore it will provide access to all people, including those with impaired mobility. The site is already being visited by people and impacted by that use, provision of a surfaced trail will stabilize the site rectifying degradation of the site from historical use.

Construction activities to replace the failing retaining wall at the Visitor Center will be in plain view of all persons at the Visitor Center or patio area. This work will be of short duration (14 to 21 days) and conducted during shoulder seasons avoiding peak visitor use periods.

2. The proposed upgrades and developments will increase recreational opportunities and ease of access into Makoshika State Park facilities and resources within. Road, and Amphitheater improvements will upgrade the existing infrastructure to be more user friendly allowing the public access and recreational use of the park. The proposed improvements correct safety and access problems and bring some of the park facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The accessible trail associated with the Amphitheater and nearby cap rock formations opens the scenic beauty of this popular overlook to all people. If completed this pathway will be the only wheelchair accessible pathway in Dawson County other than the city sidewalks in downtown Glendive.

p Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

p Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

p Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

pb Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.







**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
pa. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?			X		Yes	1
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				2
d. bbFor P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)	X					3
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Most work will replace existing facilities. A Class III survey will be conducted for the entire project prior to any surface disturbing activities. FWP will provide all survey data to SHPO and abide by SHPO's recommendations. Trail construction will cross undeveloped land, A complete survey of proposed routes will be conducted and FWP will involve SHPO in the trail specific planning process.
- Makoshika contains paleontological and to a lesser degree archaeological sites, park staff will request paleontological/SHPO surveys when specific proposed trail routes are defined. The proposed trail system additions will increase public use of park lands. FWP will be better able to monitor these back country areas and will have better reporting from other trail users of activities on park trails. Facilities and pathways at the Amphitheater are above the Cretaceous -Tertiary Boundary which marks the extinction of the dinosaurs, no significant paleontologic resources are anticipated.
2. No sites with religious or sacred uses, or cultural significance are known to exist within the project area. Archaeological or paleontological resources would be impacted if surface disturbance were to take place over an unidentified significant archaeological or paleontological locality. Mitigation measures for paleontological of archaeological resources include locality avoidance, and data recovery, including excavation. Avoidance of the locality is the preferred mitigation measure. If a previously unknown paleontological or archaeological resource is discovered during construction, the operator would immediately cease work that might further disturb such material and contact FWP and other appropriate agencies. The FWP would be responsible for all required recordation and stabilization of exposed materials.
3. Fish Wildlife and Parks will survey all sites prior to construction or any surface disturbance. FWP can not complete the individual site surveys until all snow has melted off to expose any possible artifacts or paleontological resources.

b Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

b Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

b Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

bb Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT <sup>b</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>b</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	None	Minor <sup>b</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)			X		Yes	1
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				2
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. <sup>b</sup> For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. <sup>bb</sup> For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.	X					3

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. The sum total of theses actions will most likely result in a 15% increase in the number of visitors to Makoshika State Park within five years of completing construction. This increase in visitation will have little influence on maintenance of the paved road system. The road project will smooth out ruts and bumps while eliminating dust and associated noise from vehicles decreasing the impacts of park roads. Increased public safety while traveling on a paved road with a center line will enhance the quality of the park experience and protect human life and property. This project does not increase the amount of road in the park or expand vehicle access, however it does make the existing access more available to the public.

Camping and picnic facilities at Makoshika have the capacity to accommodate this increased use without expansion or construction of additional sites. The additions to the park trail system will disperse some of the recreational use over a larger area of the park buffering the increased number of visitors while maintaining a sense of solitude for park visitors. More people in more places will result in the discovery of previously unknown paleontologic or archaeologic sites. Monitoring during construction, maintenance and use of park trails will identify sites and allow for assessment which would trigger the appropriate management action. (See section 12 for mitigation and management actions).

The cumulative result of this project to the scenic vistas and visual quality of the park is balanced between the removal (burial) of power lines and the installation of new hiking trails and a wheelchair accessible pathway. The disruption of the scenic viewshed by people walking on park trails will be intermittent and in some cases may encourage further exploration of the park by visitors. Road construction and renovation actions and improvements in this project will repair or harden existing park facilities and roads which have deteriorated from age or years of recreational use.

Continued upgrading, development and promotion of Makoshika State Park will encourage more visitors and extend the length of stay in Makoshika and the Glendive area. The economic benefits and positive influence of this project, for park visitors and the community of Glendive, enhance rather than diminish park resources and values. The protection of the park resources through hardening of these facilities is the mitigation for historic and present impacts of human use. The projects

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

<sup>b</sup> Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

<sup>b</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

<sup>bb</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



proposed and analyzed in this document induce further positive benefits for the public while limiting or correcting impacts to the natural resources of the park.

2. Public planning processes for both state parks (Vision 2020 Plan) and Makoshika (Makoshika State Park Management Plan) led to the development of a long term goal to increase use of eastern Montana park and recreation areas. Makoshika State Park's planned developments meet and promote the objectives to attain that goal.
2. FWP Design and Construction Bureau will secure all applicable permits and clearances before project construction begins.

- b Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- b Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- b Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- bb Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.





2. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

**NO ACTION:** The state legislature, Travel Montana, and parks division have made a commitment to eastern Montana and Makoshika State Park. No development will leave Makoshika with a largely underdeveloped and primitive road system, and deteriorating Amphitheater. Local, Montana and out of state visitors have all expressed the need for some improvements to Makoshika infrastructure while leaving other areas primitive and less accessible which this development program accomplishes.

**REDUCE PROJECT SCOPE:** Following are the circumstances if specific projects are eliminated.

Culvert replacement - paving cannot occur as current culverts cannot handle the flow and road washouts do occur. High maintenance costs and park inaccessible as washouts occur.

Paving roadway - gravel road remains with inherent dust, rough/washboard and slippery when wet conditions remaining. Limited access depending on weather and vehicle types.

Power line burial - power line remains above ground and in full view. Opportunity to bury power line along road as paving and culvert work proceed will be lost.

Saddle work - safety concerns remain and large portions of the park remain inaccessible when wet.

Amphitheater Renovations - the facility will continue to deteriorate and remain inaccessible for mobility impaired persons. No additional parking will result in a continued high risk of accidental fires which could destroy park facilities and resource and endanger human lives as long as visitors are forced to park along the road during theater programs.

Trail construction - less access to park resources.

Latrine installation - non-accessible, old latrines remain.

3. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:** N/A

4. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO. If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

No, an EIS is not required.

There will not be significant impacts to the natural or human environment created by this project. Most improvements occurring are replacing existing facilities which are old, outdated and expensive to maintain. Amphitheater parking lot, ADA pathway, power line burial, are corrective actions to reduce impacts or threats of human caused disturbances. The expansion of back country trails will have minor impacts to park soils, natural and social resources. Trail design and construction and management will mitigate and minimize these impacts.

5. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

30 day public comment period with an open house to present preliminary plans and discuss proposed actions. There are no serious environmental issues associated with these improvements.

6. **Duration of comment period if any: 30 days.**



7. **Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

Chris Lorentz	(406) 365-6256
Makoshika State Park Manager	E-mail makoshikapark@mcn.net
P.O. Box 1242	
Glendive, MT 59330	

**PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

See narrative under each checklist.





January 21, 1999

Chris Lorentz  
Park Manager  
Makoshika State Park  
Box 1242  
Glendive, MT 59330-1242

Chris,

Here is the Travel Montana response to the two questions asked as part of the MEPA/HB 495 review of the Makoshika State Park Capital Improvements project:

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy? \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_ YES If YES, Please Describe:

The planned improvements at Makoshika will provide better visitor facilities and enhance the quality of experience people can enjoy at the state park. These improvements may help in enticing more people to visit Makoshika and the Glendive community.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_ YES

The planned improvements will increase both the quality and quantity of opportunities at Makoshika. We support the projects and look forward to their completion.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond,

Victor A. Bjornberg  
Travel Montana - Tourism Development





## MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495 TOURISM REPORT

The Montana department of Fish Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator  
Montana Promotion Division  
Department of Commerce  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Makoshika State Park Capital Improvements

Project Description: Makoshika State Park improvements will include roadway culvert replacement, paving one half mile of road, power line burial (.3 miles in Cains Coulee and 1 mile to the Amphitheater), re-contouring the slope and adding gravel to the road at Radio Hill Junction saddle, Renovation at the Amphitheater and adding an overflow parking lot, development of hiking trails and an ADA accessible pathway, and accessible latrines installed at the Amphitheater, Group Use and Pine-on Rocks picnic area.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?

☐ NO

☒ YES

If YES, Please Describe:

on attached sheet

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings?

☐ NO

☒ YES

If YES, Please Describe:

on attached sheet

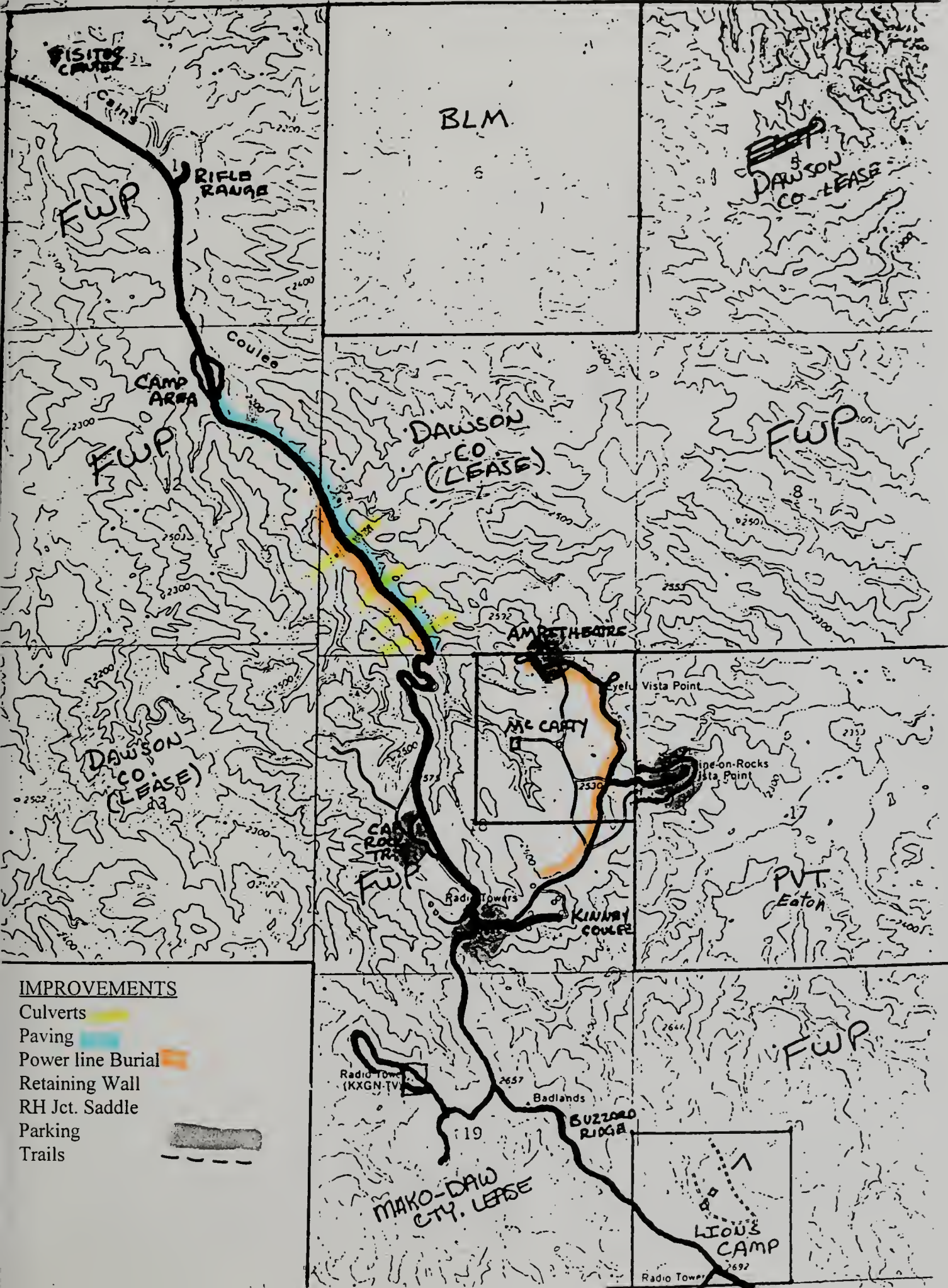
Signature

Victor A. Bjornberg

Date

Jan 21, 1999





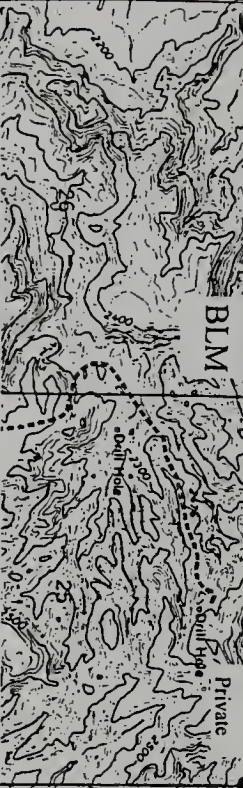
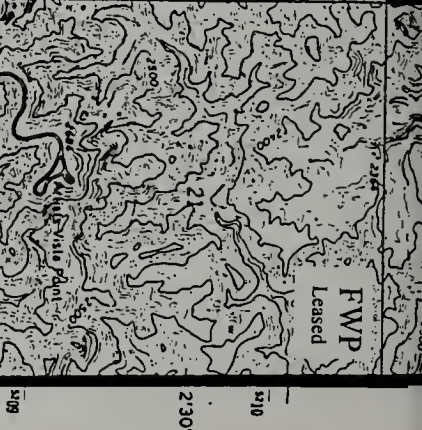
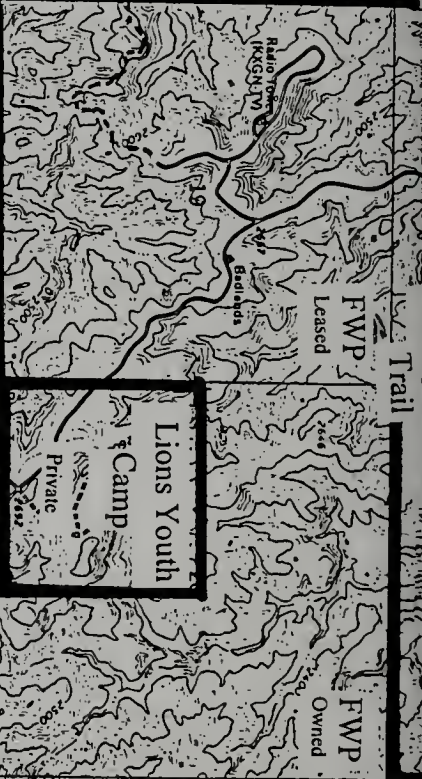
IMPROVEMENTS

- Culverts
- Paving
- Power line Burial
- Retaining Wall
- RH Jct. Saddle
- Parking
- Trails





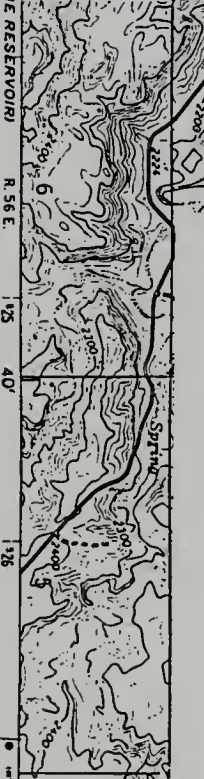
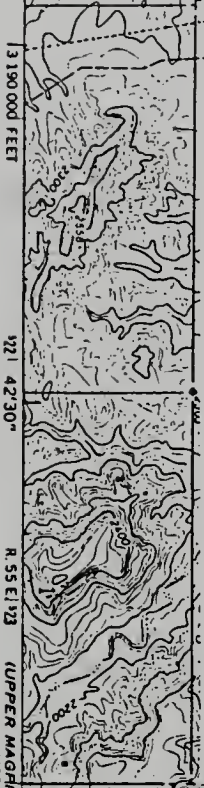




# IMPROVEMENTS

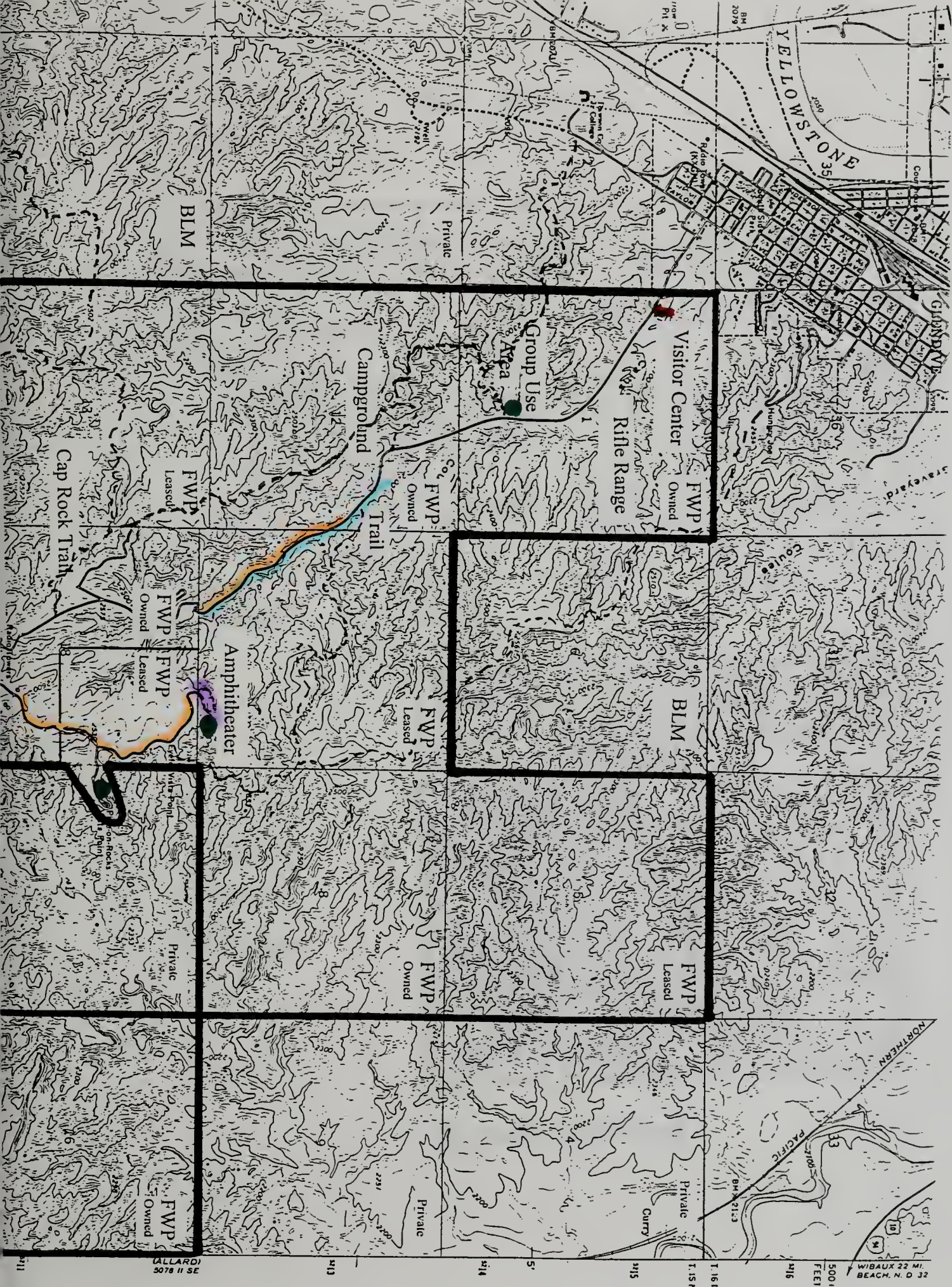
- Culverts
- Paving
- Power line Burial
- Retaining Wall
- RH Jct. Saddle
- Parking
- Trails
- Latrines

## Makoshika State Park



1319000 FEET 121 42'30" R. 55 E 123 (UPPER MAGNIE RESERVOIR) 9077 1 NW R. 56 E. 125 40' 126 47° 17'30" 104° 37'30"





13

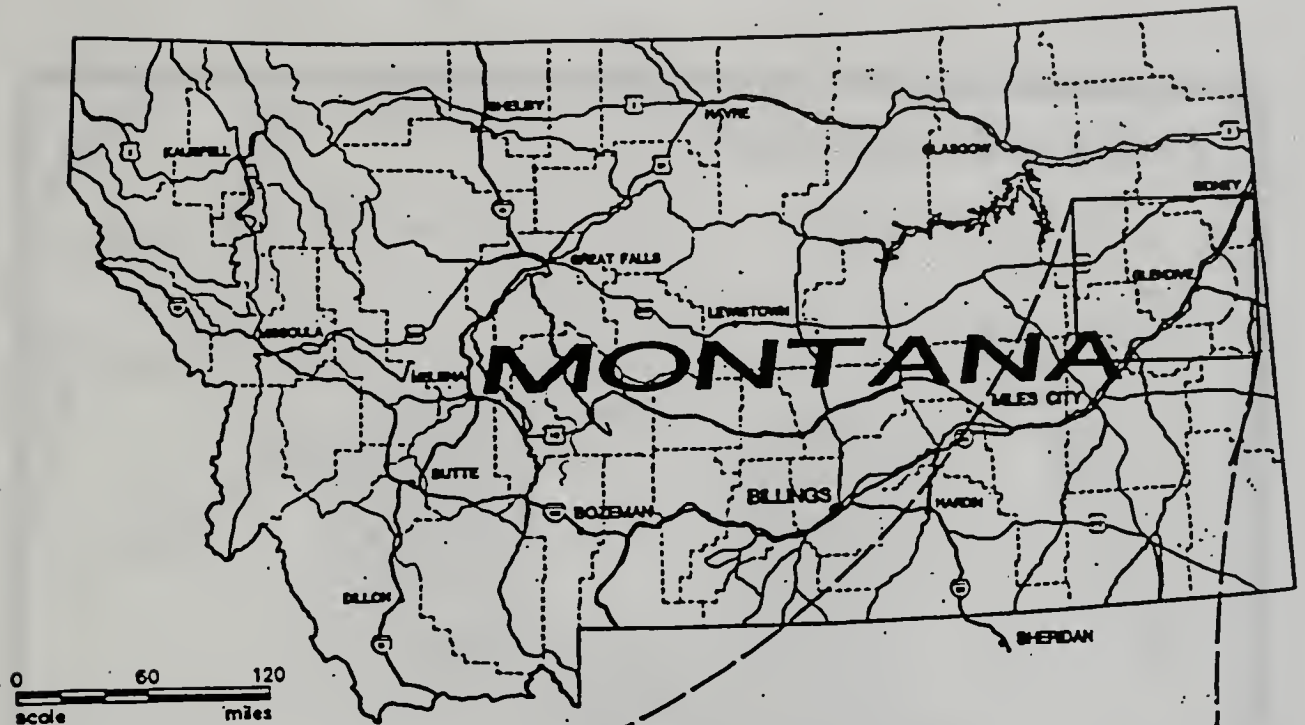
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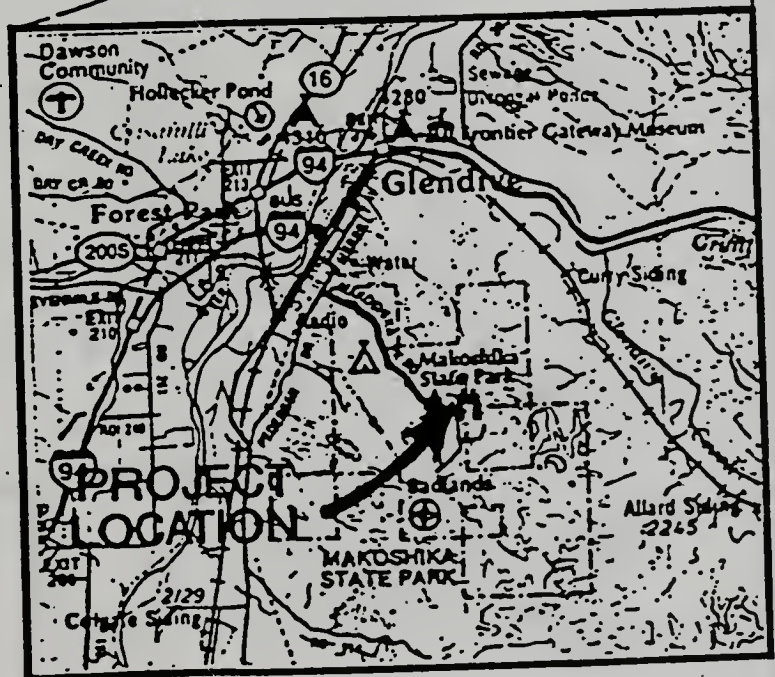
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Map 1 Vicinity Map

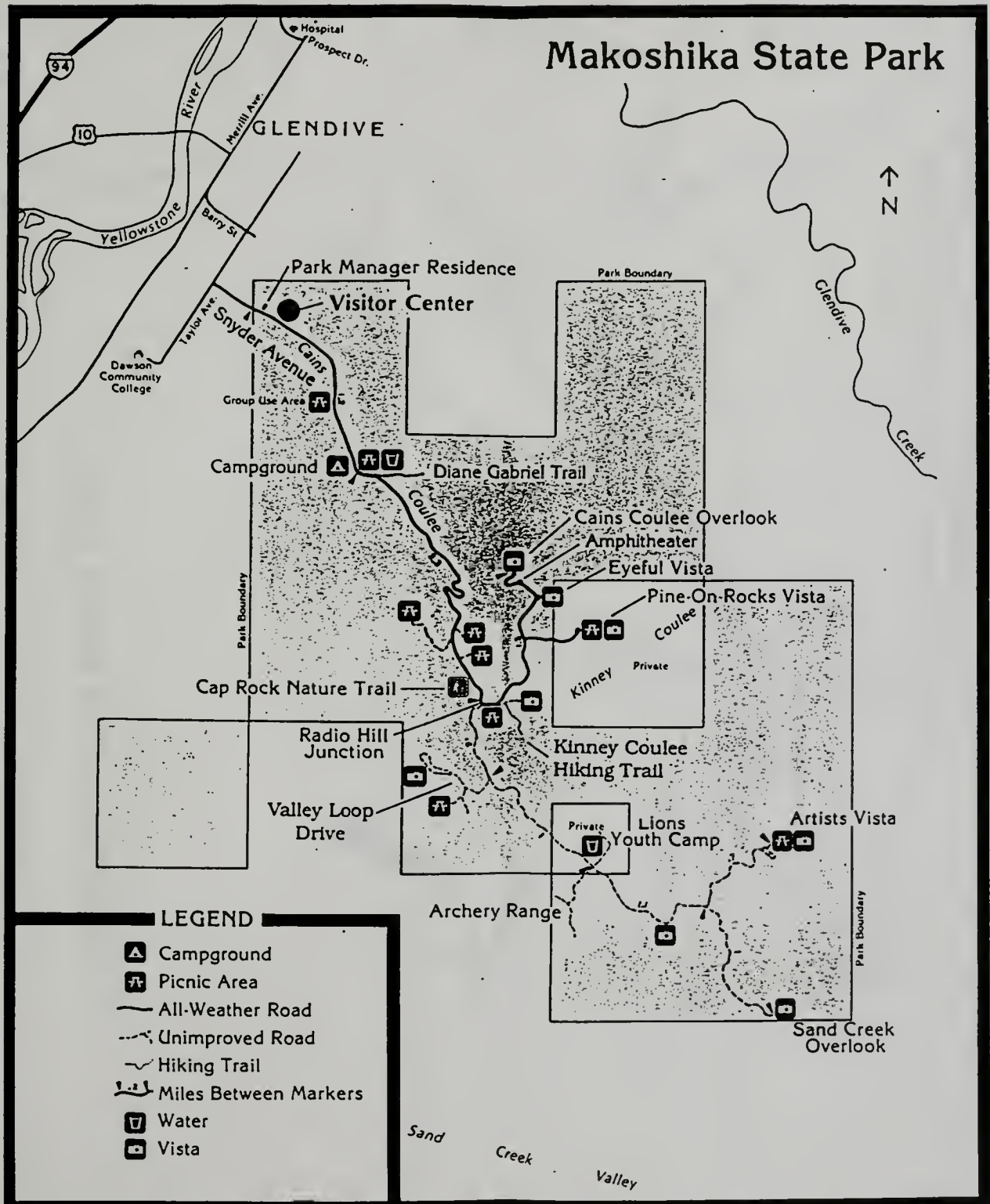


Dawson  
County  
Montana





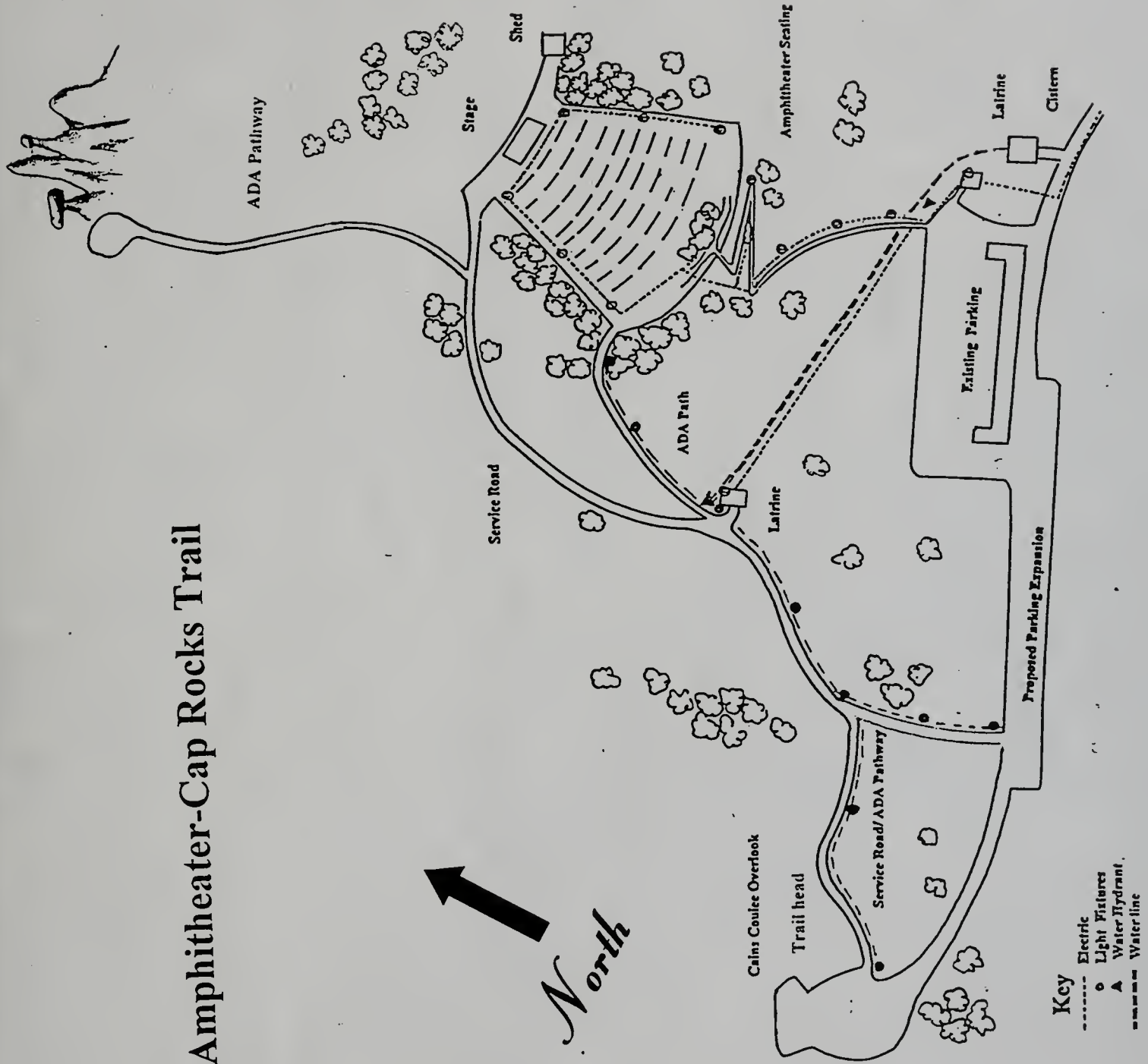
Map 2 Makoshika State Park







# Amphitheater-Cap Rocks Trail







**Smead**  
UPC 87852  
No. 486BE  
HASTINGS, MN

